

*Maritime OPINTEL Report***(U) WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS)  
Report****13 February 2013 – 13 March 2013**

14 March 2013

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**1. (U) Scope Note**

(U) The Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) message provides information on threats to, and criminal action against, merchant vessels worldwide in the last 30 days. This report is produced primarily to inform merchant mariners and naval forces.

**2. (U) Summary**

(U): INDONESIA: Chemical tanker boarded on 12 March at Belawan Anchorage.

**3. (U) Counter-Piracy and Maritime Crime Announcements and Advisories**

A. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Government of Japan convoy schedule for March 2013. Merchant vessels that wish to apply for JMSDF escort operation should visit [http://www.mlit.go.jp/en/maritime/maritime\\_fr2\\_000000.html](http://www.mlit.go.jp/en/maritime/maritime_fr2_000000.html), please contact directly the Anti-Piracy Contact and Coordination Office, Maritime Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MILT), Japan: Tel: +81-3-5253-8932 Fax: +81-3-5253-1643 Email: [INFO-PIRACY@mlit.go.jp](mailto:INFO-PIRACY@mlit.go.jp) (MSCHOA).

B. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Korean Navy convoy schedule for March and April 2013. All merchant vessels wishing to join the convoy group must submit their application forms directly to the ROK naval warship carrying out the mission. The ROK MTG can be reached directly at (INMARSAT: 870-773-110-299), (Email: [rokcheonghae@gmail.com](mailto:rokcheonghae@gmail.com)) (MSCHOA).

C. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Chinese Navy convoy schedule for March 2013. For further information, please e-mail [cnmrcc@msa.gov.cn](mailto:cnmrcc@msa.gov.cn), [cnmrcc@mot.gov.cn](mailto:cnmrcc@mot.gov.cn), or call Tel: 86-10-652-92221 Fax: 86-10-652-92245 (MSCHOA).

D. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Indian Navy convoy escort schedule for March 2013. To register, email [antipiracyescort@dgshipping.com](mailto:antipiracyescort@dgshipping.com) or [dgcommcentre@satyammal.net](mailto:dgcommcentre@satyammal.net), or visit [www.dgshipping.com](http://www.dgshipping.com). Telephone numbers for contact are: 91-22-22614646 or fax at 91-22- 22613636 (MSCHOA).

E. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Russian Navy convoy escort schedule for March 2013. For further information e-mail [smb@msecurity.ru](mailto:smb@msecurity.ru) or Fax: +7 (495) 607-01-95 (MSCHOA).

#### **4. (U) Details: Monthly Incidents by Region**

(U) This section lists reports of active violence against shipping, credible threats to shipping, or the potential for a situation to develop into a direct threat to shipping over the last 30 days. Designation of a high-threat area is based on an assessment of all source information relating to the existence of, or potential for, piracy and other crime, terrorism, civil unrest, or low-intensity conflict. Every effort is made to ensure that incidents are not double-counted. In the event double-counting is detected, or an incident is later learned to be different than initially reported, an explanation of the cancellation of the inaccurate report will be made in at least one message prior to dropping the erroneous report.

A. (U) **NORTH AMERICA**: No current incidents to report.

B. (U) **CENTRAL AMERICA–CARIBBEAN**: No current incidents to report.

C. (U) **SOUTH AMERICA**:

1. (U) PERU: On 27 February the tanker OVERSEAS AMBERMAR experienced an attempted boarding at 04:34 S – 081:18 W, at the Talara Anchorage. Two robbers in a small motorized boat attempted to board an anchored tanker via the anchor chain. Alert duty crew noticed the robbers and informed the duty officer who raised the alarm and sounded ship's whistle. Upon hearing the alarm, the robbers aborted the attempt and moved away. (IMB, IMO)

2. (U) COLOMBIA: On 24 February the tanker FORTUNATO was boarded in the vicinity of 10:18 N – 075:31 W, at the Cartagena "A" Anchorage. Four robbers boarded an anchored LPG tanker via the anchor chain and hose pipe. The robbers caught and tied up the duty AB who had sighted and shouted at them. The robbers broke into the fore castle store and escaped with ship property. (IMB, IMO)

D. (U) **ATLANTIC OCEAN AREA**: No current incidents to report.

E. (U) **NORTHERN EUROPE–BALTIC**: No current incidents to report.

F. (U) **MEDITERRANEAN–BLACK SEA**: No current incidents to report.

G. (U) **WEST AFRICA**:

1. (U) NIGERIA: On 05 March a tanker was boarded at 06:27 N – 003:23 E, in the vicinity of Lagos. An LPG Tanker was boarded and robbed by pirates. No further details at this time. (OCL)

2. (U) NIGERIA: On 04 March the tug/ supply vessel ARMADA TUAH 22 was hijacked at 03:42 N – 005:39 E, approximately 50 nm southwest of Brass. Contact with the vessel's owner has been lost and the vessel has not been responding to radio calls. In addition, the vessel's AIS was turned off at around 1715hrs local time. Unconfirmed reports state that the Captain, Chief Engineer and Second Engineer have been kidnapped. The chef was also reported to have been injured in the attack on the vessel (OCL)

3. (U) NIGERIA: On 02 March a fishing trawler was attacked at 04:07 N – 005:36 E, approximately 25 nm from the Bayelsa Coast. Unconfirmed reports state that the Captain was killed during the attack. The pirates managed to escape, prior to the arrival of the Nigerian Naval Patrol. (OCL)

4. (U) NIGERIA: On 25 February a passenger boat was boarded and personnel kidnapped at 04:37 N – 008:22 E, in the Ibaka Channel, Calabar River. Passenger boat was attacked and boarded by approximately 20 armed pirates in 2 speedboats. The pirates boarded the vessel and reported to have kidnapped 1 person. The vessel continued to port. (OCL)

5. (U) NIGERIA: On 22 February the cargo ship KOTA BAHAGIA was fired upon and endured multiple attempted boarding's at 03:51 N – 005:57 E, approximately 30 nm south-southwest of Brass. About six pirates armed with automatic rifles in a skiff launched from a mother vessel, chased and fired upon a general cargo ship underway. Master raised alarm, activated anti piracy preventive measures, increased speed, took evasive maneuvers, and non essential crew took shelter in the citadel. The pirates attempted to board the ship several times and then aborted the attempt due to the hardening measures taken by the ship. Incident reported to MRCC Nigeria. No injuries to crew but the ship sustained some damage due to the firing. (IMB, IMO)

6. (U) NIGERIA: On 17 February the tug ARMADA TUAH 101 was boarded and personnel kidnapped at 03:57 N – 005:20 E, approximately 40 nm west-southwest of Brass. An offshore tug was attacked and boarded by pirates. They boarded the vessel and kidnapped 6 officers to include the Master, Chief Officer, Second Officer, Chief Engineer, Second Engineer, and ETO. The 6 crew members are comprised of a Russian national, 2 Indians and 3 Ukrainians. The remaining 12 crew members were unharmed and there was no damage to the vessel. Remaining crew and the vessel were escorted back to Port Harcourt. (IMB, IMO, AP)

7. (U) NIGERIA: On 17 February the bulk carrier AFRICAN JOY was boarded at 06:27 N – 003:23 E, at Berth No.2, Apapa, Lagos. Robbers in a wooden boat approached a berthed bulk carrier. One robber boarded the ship, broke into the forward store, and stole ship's stores, to include 4 drums of paint. Duty crew noticed the robber and raised the alarm. The robber escaped with the stolen stores. (IMB, IMO, AP)

#### H. (U) INDIAN OCEAN–EAST AFRICA:

1. (U) YEMEN: On 04 March the tanker AL BUHAIRA experienced a suspicious approach at 14:17 N – 049:51 E, at approximately 40 nm southeast of Mukalla City. Four skiffs with approximately six persons in each skiff approached an oil tanker underway from the port bow, mid-ships and astern. Master raised alarm, took anti- piracy measures, informed UKMTO and all non- essential crew retreated to the citadel. Onboard armed security team fired warning shots

resulting in the skiffs stopping the approach at a distance of around four cables from the vessel. Ladder and RPG sighted in the approaching skiffs. A warship was deployed to the location for assistance. (IMB, IMO, OCL)

2. OMAN: On 25 February, a merchant ship reported a suspicious approach by a skiff in the vicinity of 20:53 N – 059:04 E, approximately 15nm North of Masirah Island. No shots were fired, but the ship reported sighting weapons in the skiff. (IMB, OCL)

3. OMAN: On 22 February a cargo ship was fired upon at 23:08 N – 060:49 E, approximately 130 nm South-Southeast of Muscat. Cargo ship reported being under fire. No further details. (IMB, OCL)

4. (U) SOMALIA: On 18 February the cargo ship ALBA STAR was fired upon at 07:14 N - 052:17 E, approximately 150 nm east-southeast of Eyl. Two white speed boats approached and fired upon a general cargo ship underway. Onboard armed security team returned fire resulting in the skiffs moving away. (IMB, IMO, NSC, TW)

5. (U) INDIA: On 14 February the tanker ATLANTIC LATVIA was boarded at 09:54 N – 076:08 E, at the Cochin Anchorage. Three robbers boarded an anchored chemical tanker. Alert duty officer noticed movement on the forecastle deck and raised the alarm. On hearing the alarm and seeing crew alertness the robbers were seen jumping overboard. Upon investigation it was discovered that ship stores were stolen. (IMB, IMO)

#### I. (U) PERSIAN GULF:

(U) BAHRAIN: On 04 March a dhow was fired upon and crew kidnapped approximately 60 nm north of Al Dair. A Bahraini registered dhow was attacked by four armed men in two boats. The dhow was forced to stop and then dragged from the location of the attack into Iranian waters. The sailors were kidnapped but later released, with one sailor suffering from two gunshot wounds to the shoulder. He was taken to the hospital and listed as being stable. (AP)

#### J. (U) SOUTHEAST ASIA:

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 12 March, robbers boarded a chemical tanker at anchor at the Belawan Anchorage, stole ship's stores, and escaped unnoticed. (IMB)

2. (U) INDONESIA: On 04 March the bulk carrier CASTLEGATE was boarded at 03:33 S – 114:26 E, at the Taboneo Anchorage. An anchored bulk carrier was boarded by robbers who stole ship's stores and escaped unnoticed. Master reported the incident to port control. (IMB, IMO)

3. (U) INDONESIA: On 27 February the tanker STOLT RINDO was boarded at 01:42 N – 101:29 E, at the Dumai Quarantine Anchorage. An anchored chemical tanker was boarded by robbers who stole engine spares and escaped unnoticed. The incident was discovered by one of the crew who noticed the broken lock and missing spares. (IMB, IMO, OCL)

4. (U) INDONESIA: On 20 February the tanker RED RUM was boarded at 05:34 S – 104:35 E,

at the Teluk Semangka Anchorage. Engine room stores were robbed from a LPG tanker carrying out STS operations. The robbery was discovered upon sailing and the ship's crew suspects the local mooring gang which had remained onboard the vessel during the STS operations. (IMB, IMO)

5. (U) INDONESIA: On 20 February the bulk carrier CS SOLARIS was boarded at 07:09 S – 112:40 E, in the vicinity of Gresik, Surabaya. A bulk carrier under pilotage and awaiting berthing was boarded by robbers who stole ship's stores and escaped unnoticed. Incident reported to pilot onboard who in turn reported to port control. (IMB, IMO)

6. (U) INDONESIA: On 20 February the tanker ESHIPS PRELUDE was boarded at 01:23 S – 116:56 E, at the Balikpapan Anchorage. Master onboard an anchored chemical tanker carrying out bunkering operation saw two robbers on the forecastle deck with long swords stealing the mooring ropes. He raised the alarm and mustered the crew. Seeing crew alertness the robbers jumped overboard and escaped. (IMB, IMO)

7. (U) BANGLADESH: On 18 February the tanker JASMINE EXPRESS was boarded at 22:11 N – 091:46 E, at the Chittagong “C” Anchorage. After STS discharge operations, the crew on an anchored tanker while waiting for further instructions discovered that two STS mooring ropes were stolen. Coast Guard informed. (IMB, IMO)

8. (U) INDONESIA: On 18 February the container ship APL BAHRAIN was boarded at 00:08 N – 106:18 E, approximately 52 nm east-northeast of Pulau Penjantan. D/O onboard a container ship underway noticed two masked pirates on the bridge wing attempting to enter the bridge. Alarm raised and crew mustered on bridge. The pirates could not enter the locked bridge and escaped up on seeing the crew alertness. (IMB, IMO)

9. (U) INDONESIA: On 18 February the tanker STAR OSPREY was boarded at 01:42 N – 101:27 E, at the Dumai Inner Anchorage. Two robbers armed with long knives boarded an anchored chemical tanker using a portable ladder. Duty A/B noticed the robbers and informed the D/O who raised the alarm, sounded ship's whistle and informed the port control. The robbers immediately jumped overboard and escaped empty handed upon hearing the alarm and seeing the crew alertness. (IMB, IMO)

10. (U) BANGLADESH: On 15 February the bulk carrier KIRAN AMERICA was boarded at 22:15 N – 091:42 E, at the Chittagong Anchorage. Robbers armed with long knives boarded an anchored bulk carrier via the anchor chain. Alert duty A/B noticed the robbers and raised the alarm. The robbers threatened the A/B with the knives and then escaped without stealing anything. It is suspected that the six shore watchmen onboard the vessel may have opened the anchor chain cover to let the robbers onboard. (IMB, IMO)

11. (U) VIETNAM: On 14 February the container ship SELMA was boarded at 20:37 N – 106:51 E, at the Haiphong Anchorage. Robbers boarded an anchored container ship via the anchor chain after breaking the locks on the hawse-pipe cover. They broke into the forepeak store, stole ship's stores, and escaped unnoticed. (IMB, IMO)

12. (U) INDONESIA: On 13 February the tanker FORWARD FORTUNE was boarded at 01:06

N – 103:36 E, at the Nipah Anchorage. Robbers boarded a tanker carrying out STS operations, stole engine spares and escaped when crew spotted them and raised alarm. Port authorities informed. (IMB, IMO)

K. (U) **NORTH ASIA**: No current incidents to report.

L. (U) **PACIFIC-ANTARCTIC OCEAN**: No current incidents to report.

M. (U) **ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC NON-STATE ACTIVIST GROUPS**: No current incidents to report.

## 5. (U) Appendix A: Further Contact Information and Resources

(U) This appendix provides contact information for the author of the WTS as well as other entities that can be contacted with maritime crime reports. It also lists other resources where the WTS is posted and where piracy and maritime crime incident information can be found.

### (U) Contact

(U) Originator of this WTS report requests consumer feedback. Originator will incorporate all anti-shipping events and violence against the maritime industry into this weekly message where appropriate. To aid in our reporting, please add the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) to your normal corporate and organizational reporting requirements. The 24-hour watch can be reached at +1 (301) 669-4053.

### (U) Other Resources

(U) This Worldwide Threat to Shipping Report is posted at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency's Maritime Safety site: <http://msi.nga.mil/NGAPortal/MSI.portal>. The International Maritime Bureau (IMB) also publishes a live piracy report based on reporting from the IMB Piracy Reporting Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, listing all piracy and armed robbery incidents in the last ten days: <http://www.icc-ccs.org/>. The PAWW and WTS Reports are posted weekly on the ONI Intel Portal: [http://www.oni.navy.mil/Intelligence\\_Community/piracy.htm](http://www.oni.navy.mil/Intelligence_Community/piracy.htm)

## 6. (U) Appendix B: Terminology and References

(U) This appendix is provided to promote consistent use of accurate terms of reference in reporting and also identifies those references that were used to gather the information contained in this report. ONI welcomes comment and suggestions for addition or amendment.

### (U) Terminology

(U) In order to promote consistent use of accurate terms of reference, the following have been adopted to describe the range of criminal anti-shipping activity and impediments to safe navigation in our worldwide reporting and analysis. Please note that these terms relate to observable activity and are independent of target vessel status and exclude actions by



governmental powers in lawful pursuit of their authorities:

- **(U) Attempted Boarding** – Close approach or hull-to-hull contact with report that boarding paraphernalia were employed or visible in the approaching boat.
- **(U) Blocking** – Hampering safe navigation, docking, or undocking of a vessel as a means of protest.
- **(U) Boarding** – Unauthorized boarding of a vessel by persons not part of its complement without successfully taking control of the vessel.
- **(U) Firing Upon** – Weapons discharged at or toward a vessel.
- **(U) Hijacking** – Unauthorized seizure and retention of a vessel by persons not part of its complement.
- **(U) Kidnapping** – Unauthorized forcible removal of persons belonging to the vessel from it.
- **(U) Robbery** – Theft from a vessel or from persons aboard the vessel.
- **(U) Suspicious Approach** – All other unexplained close proximity of an unknown vessel.

### **(U) Sourcing**

(U) ONI derives information in this report from direct reporting and analysis of reports from the following agencies and commercial sources.

- Agence France Presse (AFP)
- Associated Press (AP)
- BBC News (BBC)
- Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO), Denmark (BIMCO)
- EU Naval Forces (EU)
- Fairplay (FP), London
- International Maritime Bureau (IMB), London and Kuala Lumpur
- International Maritime Organization (IMO), London
- Informa Group (INFO), formerly LLP, Llp Limited, London
- Latitude38.com (LAT), website
- Lloyd's List (LL), daily, London
- Local media (LM)
- Maritime Administration (MARAD), US
- Maritime Security Council (MSC), US
- Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa (MSCHOA), Northwood
- MaRisk by Risk Intelligence (Risk Intelligence/MaRisk)
- Noonsite.com (Noonsite), website
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization Shipping Center (NSC), Brussels
- National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), Navigation Safety System

- Oceanuslive.org (OCL), website
- Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) (analysis and comment)
- Operator (owner or operator of affected vessel)
- Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC), US
- United States Coast Guard (USCG)
- Royal Australian Navy (RAN)
- Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia, Information Sharing Center (ReCAAP ISC)
- Reuters
- Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN)
- Seafarers' Assistance Program (SAP), Kenya
- Tradewinds (TW)
- United Kingdom Maritime Trade Organization (UKMTO)
- United Press International (UPI)
- U.S. Maritime Liaison Office (MARLO) Bahrain
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)
- U.S. Department of State (DOS)
- U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)

(U) ICOD: 06 March 2013